



Israel and U.S. are at odds over conflicting visions for postwar Gaza

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and
SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — The United States has offered strong support to Israel in its war against the Hamas militant group that rules the Gaza Strip. But the allies are increasingly at odds over what will happen to Gaza once the war winds down.

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, this week announced that Israel would retain an open-ended security presence in Gaza. Israeli officials talk of imposing a buffer zone to keep Palestinians away from the Israeli border. They rule out any role for the Palestinian Authority, which was ousted from Gaza by Hamas in 2007 but governs semi-autonomous areas of the occupied West Bank.

The United States has laid out a much different vision. Top officials have said they will not allow Israel to reoccupy Gaza or further shrink its already small territory.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, right meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah, on Nov. 30, 2023.)

Continued on Page 2

Associated Press

For the BEST & the BIGGEST Steak
and so much more!

Facebook and Instagram icons

Lobby Bar Menu

FRIDAYS
2 FOR 1 Sangria

Lunch Special
EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM

\$28.90 +15% SC
TAX IS INCLUDED.

Local Deal
SATURDAY

15% OFF For Locals

Open daily from 11:30am - 11pm. Mondays Closed. Wilhelminastraat #80. Oranjestad, Aruba. Phone: +297 582-3677 • www.elgaucho-aruba.com

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
Full Service Bar
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



Unlock Your Dream Home:

Explore Exciting Real Estate Opportunities with Bold Properties Aruba | Christie's International Real Estate

boldpropertiesaruba.com



Are you in the market for a new condo or house?

Your search ends here! I have a plethora of captivating projects in the pipeline, waiting to be discovered by discerning homebuyers like you.

BOLD
PROPERTIES
— ARUBA —

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

Your move is our priority...

Don't miss out on your chance to find the perfect home! Contact me today via email at jenn@boldrealestatearuba.com or give me a call at 297-699-8301.

Israel and U.S. are at odds over conflicting visions for postwar Gaza

Continued from Front

They have repeatedly called for a return of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority and the resumption of peace talks aimed at establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

These conflicting visions have set the stage for difficult discussions between Israel and the U.S.

Here's a closer look at the issues.

SHAKY COMMON GROUND

Israel declared war on Hamas after the Islamic militant group burst across its southern border on Oct. 7, slaughtering some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping more than 240 others. President Joe Biden quickly flew to Israel on a solidarity mission, and his administration has strongly backed Israel's right to defend itself while providing weapons and military assistance.

Israel has said its goal is to destroy Hamas — a difficult task given the group's deep roots in Palestinian society. The U.S., which along with other Western countries considers Hamas a terrorist group, has embraced this goal. But as the war drags on, it has expressed misgivings about the dire humanitarian conditions and mounting civilian death toll in Gaza, where health authorities report over 16,000 dead, at least two-thirds of them women and children. Israel says Hamas is to blame by using civilians as human shields.

Over the weekend, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said it is critical that Israel protect Gaza's civilians.

"If you drive them into the arms of the enemy, you replace a tactical victory with a strategic defeat," he said. "So I have repeatedly made



U.S. President Joe Biden, left, meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, to discuss the war between Israel and Hamas, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Oct. 18, 2023.

Associated Press

clear to Israel's leaders that protecting civilians in Gaza is both a moral responsibility and a strategic imperative." On Thursday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken went even farther, telling Israel that "civilian casualties remain too high and that Israel must step up its efforts to reduce them," his office said. Blinken also called on Israel to increase the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza.

DIFFERENT VISIONS

The biggest differences between the allies have emerged over the longer-term vision for Gaza.

Netanyahu has offered only glimpses of what he plans. On Tuesday, he said the military would retain open-ended security control over the Gaza Strip long after the war ends, suggesting a form of extended Israeli occupation.

Netanyahu ruled out the idea of foreign peacekeepers, saying only the Israeli army could ensure that Gaza remains demilitarized. Netanyahu has also rejected a return of the Palestinian Authority, saying its leader, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas cannot be trusted.

"After destroying Hamas, Gaza will be demilitarized and de-radicalized so that

no threat will be posed to Israel from Gaza," said Ophir Falk, an adviser to Netanyahu. "The buffer zone may be part of the demilitarization. That's the plan."

Israel told Western allies and regional neighbors about the buffer zone plans as recently as last week, without offering a detailed proposal, according to Egyptians officials and Arab and Western diplomats, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the topic.

The officials said countries informed of the proposal include Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Two Egyptian officials said it appears that Israel doesn't have a detailed workable plan for such a zone, including its width.

"They just say, 'it would be a temporary buffer zone,'" one of the officials said. "But when we asked for details, they don't have answers." Arab countries, meanwhile, have refused to talk about postwar scenarios while the fighting continues and are demanding a cease-fire. Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, for instance, recently said that Arab countries would not "come and clean the mess after Israel."

While no decisions have been taken, these ideas appear to put Israel at odds with the White House.

Biden and other top officials have repeatedly said that a "revitalized" Palestinian Authority must play a role in postwar Gaza and that Israel must seek a two-state solution involving the PA. They have ruled out a long-term re-occupation or redrawing of Gaza's borders.

Vice President Kamala Harris laid out perhaps the clearest U.S. vision during an address in Dubai last weekend. "Five principles guide our approach for post-conflict Gaza: no forcible displacement, no re-occupation, no siege or blockade, no reduction in territory, and no use of Gaza as a platform for terrorism," she said. "We want to see a unified Gaza and West Bank under the Palestinian Authority, and Palestinian voices and aspirations must be at the center of this work."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said he would only agree to return to Gaza if it is part of a broader plan aimed at establishing an independent state that also includes the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Israel captured all three territories in the 1967 Mideast war.

Frustration with Netanyahu may not be limited to the U.S.

Amos Harel, the military affairs columnist for the Haaretz daily, said Israeli army commanders believe Netanyahu is motivated by domestic political considerations and refusing to deal with the Palestinian Authority "due to coalition constructions from his far-right partners." Netanyahu and his hardline coalition partners oppose Palestinian independence.

HOW SERIOUS ARE THE DIS-

PUTES?

For now, both sides seem to be focused on the shared goal of destroying Hamas.

"It's important for them that Israel achieve the military goals because this is the starting point for any changes that can happen the day after," said Eldad Shavit, a former high-ranking Israeli intelligence official.

He said U.S. pressure in the short term will be on immediate issues — such as pressure to minimize civilian casualties and to allow more deliveries of humanitarian aid.

The U.S. has indicated that it will show some patience after the fighting subsides. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said the U.S. understands "there will have to be some kind of transition period after the end of major combat operations." He declined to say how long that would take. But as the death toll in Gaza continues to rise, conditions deteriorate, and Biden enters an election year with significant portions of his Democratic base pushing for an end to Israel's offensive, these differences are likely to grow in the absence of a clear endgame.

Shavit said that tensions could rise if the U.S. at some point concludes that Israel is dragging its feet or ignoring American demands. But for now, "the Americans want Israel to succeed," he said. Daniel Levy, a former Israeli peace negotiator who is president of the U.S./Middle East Project, a policy institute that studies the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, said the Americans are unlikely to put their foot down.

He cited what he described as a tepid American response to heavy civilian casualties in southern Gaza as an indicator of what lies ahead. □

U.S. touts new era of collaboration with Native American tribes to manage public lands and water

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— The U.S. government is entering a new era of collaboration with Native American and Alaska Native leaders in managing public lands and other resources, with top federal officials saying that incorporating more Indigenous knowledge into decision-making can help spur conservation and combat climate change.

Federal emergency managers on Thursday also announced updates to recovery policies to aid tribal communities in the repair or rebuilding of traditional homes or ceremonial buildings after a series of wildfires, floods and other disasters around the country.

With hundreds of tribal leaders gathering in Washington this week for an annual summit, the Biden administration is celebrating nearly 200 new agreements that are designed to boost federal cooperation with tribes nationwide.

The agreements cover everything from fishery restoration projects in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest to management of new



President Joe Biden speaks before signing an executive order at the White House Tribal Nations Summit at the Department of the Interior, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

national monuments in the Southwestern U.S., seed collection work in Montana and plant restoration in the Great Smoky Mountains. "The United States manages hundreds of millions of acres of what we call federal public lands. Why wouldn't we want added capacity, added expertise, millennia of knowledge and understanding of how

to manage those lands?" U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Bryan Newland said during a panel discussion. The new co-management and co-stewardship agreements announced this week mark a tenfold increase over what had been inked just a year earlier, and officials said more are in the pipeline. Newland, a citizen of the

Bay Mills Indian Community in northern Michigan, said each agreement is unique. He said each arrangement is tailored to a tribe's needs and capacity for helping to manage public lands and at the very least assures their presence at the table when decisions are made. The federal government is not looking to dictate to tribal leaders what a part-

nership should look like, he said.

The U.S. government controls more than a quarter of the land in the United States, with much of that encompassing the ancestral homelands of federally recognized tribes. While the idea of co-stewardship dates back decades and has spanned multiple presidential administrations, many tribes have advocated in recent years for a more formal role in managing federal lands to which they have a connection.

Tribes and advocacy groups have been pushing for arrangements that go beyond the consultation requirements mandated by federal law.

Researchers at the University of Washington and legal experts with the Native American Rights Fund have put together a new clearinghouse on the topic. They point out that public lands now central to the country's national heritage originated from the dispossession and displacement of Indigenous people and that co-management could present an opportunity for the U.S. to reckon with that complicated legacy. □

Jill Biden and military kids sort toys the White House donated to the Marine Corps Reserve program



First lady Jill Biden takes a photo with guests during a Toys for Tots event with local Marine Corps and military-connected families on the South Lawn of the White House, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jill Biden and children from military families on Wednesday helped sort toys donated by the White House to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, which gives playthings to needy children.

The children also enjoyed skating on the South Lawn's new holiday ice rink.

"So did you have fun ice skating?" the first lady asked about the rink, which she opened last week. "I think the rink is really neat, don't you? I love seeing it. I can see it out my window."

The annual event typically is held at an area military base. Biden said she brought it to the White House because "our holiday theme celebrates children and the way all of you experience the season."

She said military children also serve their country and praised their bravery, kindness and compassion.

"You may not hear this a lot but kids have something important to teach us grownups, especially military kids like you," Biden said. "You teach us how to be brave, even when we're scared. You teach us how to make friends, even when we don't know anyone. You teach us how to reach out a hand to other people, people in need. And we need that courage, kindness and compassion now more than ever."

Last year, Toys for Tots provided over 24.5 million toys to 10 million children, said Brig. Gen. Valerie Jackson, Commanding General, 4th Marine Logistic Group. "And with your support, we hope to reach even more this year." □

Gunman who killed 3 at UNLV did not appear to be targeting students, AP sources say

By RIO YAMAT and BEN FINLEY

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A gunman who killed three people and critically wounded a fourth at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, before dying in a shootout with police, did not appear to be targeting students, according to two law enforcement officials with direct knowledge of the investigation. Terrified students and professors covered in classrooms and dorms as the gunman roamed UNLV's Lee Business School on Wednesday and opened fire just before noon on the fourth floor, where faculty and staff offices for the accounting and marketing departments are located. One of the officials said the gunman was a long-time business professor who had unsuccessfully sought a job at UNLV. The other law enforcement official identified the suspect as Anthony Polito, 67. Both officials spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information publicly. Investigators searched an apartment in Henderson, Nevada, late Wednesday as part of the investigation and retrieved several elec-



Police work at the scene of a fatal shooting that killed several people on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

tronic devices, including Polito's cellphone, one of the officials said. Polito was a professor in North Carolina at East Carolina University's Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management from 2001 to 2017, according to a statement released Thursday by the school. He resigned in January 2017 as a tenured associate professor. One of Polito's former students at East Carolina University, Paul Whittington, said Polito went on tangents during class about his many trips to Las Vegas. Polito told his students he

visited twice yearly, staying in different hotels and going to various clubs, Whittington said. "He was really really, really fixated on the city of Las Vegas," Whittington said. "I think he just really liked going there." Polito also seemed obsessive over anonymous student reviews at the end of each semester, Whittington said. Polito told Whittington's class that he remembered the faces of students who gave him bad reviews and would express that he was sure who they were and where they sat, pointing at seats in the class-

room, Whittington said. "He always talked about the negative feedback he got," said Whittington, now 33, who took Polito's intro to operations management class in 2014. "He didn't get a lot of it, but there would always be one student every semester, or at least one student every class, that would give a negative review. And he fixated on those." The attack at UNLV terrified a city that experienced the deadliest shooting in modern U.S. history in October 2017, when a gunman killed 60 people and wounded more than 400

after opening fire from the window of a high-rise suite at Mandalay Bay on the Las Vegas Strip, just miles from the UNLV campus. Lessons learned from that shooting helped authorities to work "seamlessly" in reacting to the UNLV attack, Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahon said at a news conference. Police didn't immediately identify the victims, or the attacker's motive. They also didn't say what kind of weapon was used. After opening fire, the gunman went to several other floors of the business school before he was killed in a shootout with two university police detectives outside the building, which is next to the university's student union, UNLV Police Chief Adam Garcia said. Authorities gave the all-clear about 40 minutes after the first report of an active shooter. It wasn't immediately clear how many of the school's 30,000 students were on campus at the time, but McMahon said students had been gathered outside the building and the student union to eat and play games. If police hadn't killed the attacker, "it could have been countless additional lives taken," he said. □

Deputy U.S. Marshal charged with entering plane drunk after misconduct report on flight to London



A general view of New Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the London Metropolitan Police on Feb. 3, 2012.

Associated Press

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A deputy U.S. Marshal was charged in the United Kingdom on Thursday with entering an aircraft while drunk, after being arrested on allegations of misconduct aboard a flight from New York, London police said. Michael Brereton, 39, was arrested when he landed at Heathrow Airport. The flight crew had contacted officers to report onboard disruptions from the federal agent,

London police said in a statement. He is expected to appear in court Friday. No court representative was immediately available for him, and a relative declined to comment when reached by phone. The Associated Press left an email message for the union that represents deputies. The Metropolitan Police Service said in a statement that flight crew members reported that the marshal "was disruptive and had sexually assaulted other

passengers and crew." No sexual assault charges have been filed. The British offense of sexual assault is one person intentionally touching another with any body part or an object, without their consent. Another deputy also aboard the plane was briefly detained but has since been released and returned. The two deputies were aboard the flight to transport a suspect back to the U.S., a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. □

The U.K. govt. blames Russian intelligence for prolonged efforts to meddle in British politics

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Russia's intelligence services have targeted high-profile British politicians, civil servants and journalists with cyberespionage as part of years-long attempts to interfere in U.K. politics, Britain's government said Thursday.

The Foreign Office said Russia's FSB agency was responsible for a range of sustained cyberespionage operations in the U.K., including targeting British lawmakers from multiple parties from at least 2015 through to this year and selectively leaking and amplifying sensitive information to serve Russian interests.

Foreign Office minister Leo Docherty told lawmakers that a cybergroup called "Star Blizzard" also known as Callisto Group or COLD-RIVER, and which U.K. cybersecurity officials believe to be "almost certainly subordinate" to an FSB unit created false identities to impersonate legitimate contacts and then delivered a malicious link to vic-



A general view of the Houses of Parliament at sunrise in London, on Oct. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

tims.

"They have been targeting high-profile individuals and entities with a clear intent using information they obtain to meddle in British politics," Docherty said.

"The targeting of this group is not limited to politicians, but public-facing figures and institutions of all types," he added. "We have seen impersonation and at-

tempts to compromise email accounts in the public sector, universities, media, NGOs and wider civil society."

Russian officials didn't respond to a request seeking comment on the allegations.

British authorities said that Star Blizzard was responsible for the 2018 hacking of the Institute for Statecraft, a

U.K. think tank that worked on defending democracy against disinformation. They said the group was also behind the hacking and leaking of U.S.-U.K. trade documents before the 2019 British general election.

The goal was to "undermine trust in politics in the U.K. and likeminded states," the government said.

The Foreign Office said that

"while some attacks resulted in documents being leaked, attempts to interfere with U.K. politics and democracy have not been successful."

It said the U.K. on Thursday imposed sanctions on Russian Aleksandrovich Petyatko, a FSB intelligence officer, and Andrey Stanislavovich Korinets, a member of Star Blizzard, for involvement in the so-called spear-phishing operations. The U.S. Justice Department announced separately on Thursday that it had brought criminal charges against both Petyatko and Korinets in connection with the hacking conspiracy.

Besides accusing them in the 2019 hack-and-dump operation of emails in advance of the 2019 U.K. election, U.S. officials also allege that they and other unnamed conspirators targeted the accounts of government officials in the United States, including current and former employees of the U.S. Defense and State Departments and of the intelligence community. □

Seychelles declares state of emergency after huge explosion comes hours after deadly flooding

By EMILIE CHETTY

Associated Press

VICTORIA, Seychelles (AP)

— The tiny Indian Ocean island nation of Seychelles declared a state of emergency Thursday after a huge blast at an explosives depot occurred after deadly flooding hit other parts of the country. Three people died in the flooding, the president said.

More than 100 were injured in the explosion in the industrial area of Providence, around 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) southeast of the capital, Victoria, on Seychelles' main island of Mahe. The blast destroyed buildings and flattened trees in the vicinity.

National TV showed people at hospitals and clinics bloodied with injuries after

the blast. No deaths were reported from the explosion.

The blast happened around

2 a.m. Thursday morning and followed heavy rain and flooding late Wednesday night, which mostly hit

the northern part of Mahe. Houses were flooded, parts of roads were washed away, and the water caused landslides in some areas.

Two of the people who died in the flooding were trapped in their home, authorities said.

President Wavel Ramkalawan announced the state of emergency in a statement from his office, ordering schools to close and people to stay at home in the nation of just over 100,000 people to give emergency services and other essential workers the space to do their jobs. Emergency services were on the scene of the explosion.

The blast caused "massive damage" and the floods

caused "major destruction," the statement from the president's office said. Ramkalawan told reporters later Thursday that three people had died in the heavy rain and flooding. He said 125 people had injuries, mostly minor, in the blast at Providence and had gone to medical centers for treatment. Many buildings had been partly or completely destroyed by the blast, which left a large crater.

"The damages are huge and many families have moved out of their homes for security reasons," Ramkalawan said.

He said he was shocked to see the aftermath in Providence and surrounding areas. "It was as if we went through a war," he said. □



In this image made from video, Buildings damaged after a massive explosion at an industrial area on the main island in Mahe, Seychelles, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

Rights groups say Israeli strikes on journalists in Lebanon were likely deliberate

By **BASSEM MROUE**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Two Israeli strikes that killed a Reuters videographer and wounded six other journalists in south Lebanon nearly two months ago were apparently deliberate and a direct attack on civilians, two international human rights groups said Thursday. Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch said that the strikes should be investigated as a war crime. Their findings were released simultaneously with similar investigations by Reuters and Agence France-Presse. Israeli officials have said that they don't deliberately target journalists.

The investigations by the rights groups found that two strikes 37 seconds apart targeted the group of journalists near the village of Alma al-Shaab on Oct. 13. The strikes killed Issam Abdallah and wounded Reuters journalists Thaer Al-Sudani and Maher Nazeh, Qatar's Al-Jazeera television cameraman Elie Brakhya and reporter Carmen



AFP video journalist Dylan Collins, second left, who was injured when an Israeli shell landed in a gathering of international journalists on Oct. 13, 2023, speaks during a press conference by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch in Beirut, Lebanon, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

Joukhadar, and AFP's photographer Christina Assi, and video journalist Dylan Collins.

The seven journalists, all wearing flak jackets and helmets, were among many who deployed in

southern Lebanon to cover the daily exchange of fire between members of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group and Israeli troops. The violence began a day after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on southern Israel

that triggered the latest Israel-Hamas war.

Amnesty International said that it had verified more than 100 videos and photographs, analyzed weapons fragments from the site, and interviewed nine

witnesses. It found that the group "was visibly identifiable as journalists and that the Israeli military knew or should have known that they were civilians yet attacked them."

London-based Amnesty said that it determined that the first strike, which killed Abdallah and severely wounded Assi, "was a 120mm tank round fired from the hills between al-Nawaqir and Jordeikh in Israel," while the second strike appeared to be a different weapon, likely a small guided missile, causing a vehicle used by the Al Jazeera crew to go up in flames. Amnesty said that the tank round, most likely an M339 projectile, was manufactured by the Israeli IMI Systems and had been identified in other Amnesty International investigations of attacks by the Israeli military. HRW said that it had interviewed seven witnesses, including three of the wounded journalists and a representative of the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon. □

United Nations bemoans struggles to fund peacekeeping as nations demand withdrawal of missions

By **FRANCIS KOKUTSE and SAM METZ**
Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — The United Nations' top peacekeeping official defended the organization's missions worldwide amid growing concerns that they've gone into retreat as African leaders demand their withdrawal from Mali to Congo. Undersecretary General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said on Wednesday the 30,000-member force operates with a \$5.5 billion budget - less than the operating budget for the New York City Police Department. He told delegates at a UN peacekeeping ministerial meeting in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, that efforts had been hampered by

divisions among member states.

The majority of UN peacekeeping missions are in Africa, including in Central African Republic, Sudan and Western Sahara. However, they've faced increas-

ing blowback and scrutiny over their ability to successfully carry out their missions, including protests in Congo from residents claiming peacekeepers did little to protect them from armed groups.



U.N. soldiers stand guard in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, on Nov. 30, 2012.

Associated Press


The operations, which require approval from the UN Security Council to be extended, have gradually gone into retreat in Africa. In June, leaders in Mali requested the United Nations withdraw peacekeeping forces. Leaders from Congo made a similar request to the security council in September.

Congolese President Felix-Antoine Tshisekedi said then that the mission had failed to confront fighting, but on Wednesday Lacroix defended the force, telling reporters that the UN had received feedback from residents that they wanted the peacekeepers to do more.


"Peacekeeping can only operate if the UN has the sovereign support," Lacroix

said of Congo.

The two-day ministerial meeting in Accra is taking place as polarizing divides emerge among United Nations member states about wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Institutions like the United Nations Security Council which has a mandate to maintain international peace and security have struggled to reach consensus on Israel's latest war with Hamas militants that began in October when they launched a deadly incursion into southern Israel. Though Lacroix lamented how the peacekeeping budget was a mere 0.3% of global military spending, he also noted that it provides a good return on investment as peacekeepers save lives for relatively little cost. □



DON'T MISS!
SIGN UP FOR OUR LOYALTY CARD
New members sign up and receive **\$10**
Existing members **PLAY 5 POINTS**
and receive **\$10 FREE PLAY!**



J.E. IRAUSQUIN BLVD 83, NOORD AT BARCELÓ ARUBA. T +297 2804000



Oranjestad – Get ready to indulge in thrilling gaming experiences and a chance to strike it rich at LIV Casino, nestled within the luxurious Barceló Aruba resort. With a wide array of games and a captivating atmosphere, LIV Casino promises an unforgettable entertainment journey for visitors seeking excitement and good fortune.

LIV Casino boasts an impressive selection of 123 slot machines, each waiting to make someone a lucky winner. Among these, 114 are Dollar machines and 9 are Florin machines cater to various preferences and betting levels, offering a diverse gaming experience that suits every player's style.

The casino is not just about slots – for those who relish the thrill of traditional table games, LIV Casino delivers on every front. Step up to the challenge at the Black-jack Table, where strategy meets chance, or take a spin at the Roulette Table for an electrifying game of luck. Additionally, the Three Card Poker Table offers a unique blend of strategy and excitement, adding a new dimension to the gaming floor.

Adding to the anticipation, every table at LIV Casino features its own progressive jackpot, promising the po-

Experience Unrivaled Excitement and Win Big at LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba

tential for monumental winnings that could change a player's life in an instant.

The gaming action at LIV Casino comes alive from 11 AM to 3 AM, ensuring non-stop excitement throughout the day and into the night. For those looking to experience the thrill of table games, the tables are open from 4:30 PM until closing, inviting players to try their hand at a variety of games while enjoying the vibrant casino ambiance.

"Try your luck with us at LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba," encourages Marc Charley, Casino General Manager of LIV Casino. "We have crafted an environment where guests can immerse themselves in the thrill of gaming and experience the rush of winning big. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner, our

diverse selection of games caters to all preferences."

LIV Casino at Barceló Aruba stands as a hub of entertainment, where visitors can not only try their luck but also revel in the world-class amenities and hospitality that the Barceló brand is renowned for.

About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba:

LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. □



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

Located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the govern-


ment decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

ACROBATIC Dinner & Show

Wed & Fri
7pm-9pm

Pasos Herencia



Aruba's
got Talent



Free Sangria
WITH THIS COUPON

Reservations:

+297 744 4059

www.rccaqua.com

Discover all the benefits that Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has to offer



Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has been providing quality service in Aruba since 1995. On the premises are a total of 73 apartments (46 Studio, 22 loft apartments & 5 suites).

Known for its cleanliness, quiet atmosphere, hospitality at affordable daily and monthly rates. All 73 apartments are fully furnished and non-smoking. There is free WIFI on the premises and free international phone calls from the comfort of your room. There is a fresh-water pool, a fitness room and a laundry room. 2 BBQ sets outside. Free parking. And a security guard at night.

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites is conveniently located less than 1 mile from Aruba's beautiful Eagle Beach, restaurants, hospital / pharmacy, casino's, 2 large supermarkets, car rentals, IMAX cinema and a golf course.

So please, for your next trip to Aruba book directly with us at Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites.

Don't hesitate to contact us...
Marisella, Aislinn, Janique & Alec. ☐

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites
Tel: (297)-582-0697
WhatsApp: (297)-734-3008

Email:
info@arubaqualityapartments.com

Website:
www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Toll Free Calls from the USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095

Toll Free Calls from the Netherlands: 085-009-0218

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8am-7pm. Saturday & Sunday: 9am-5pm.

Facebook: @qualityapartments Instagram: aruba_quality_apt



Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two "hidden" natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.



Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known "Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring



visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

50/30
Friday!

We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players **every**
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe
Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique
Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irawsquín Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Distinguished Visitors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. J.D. & Mrs. Mindy Reid from Georgia, United States.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Bryan & Mrs. Stacy Bucchi from New Jersey, United States.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Kenneth & Mrs. Stacey Simmons from Virginia, United States.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Steve & Mrs. Judy Burr from Massachusetts, United States.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Ross Nicholson & Mrs. Nancy Cobban from Ontario, Canada.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort bestowed the Distinguished Visitor certificates to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Reid were:



- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's beautiful sunsets.
- "Things to do!"
- "Our honeymoon celebration."

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Bucchi were:

- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's downtown.
- Aruba's safety and food.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Simmons were:

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's sea turtles and donkeys.
- "Things to do!"

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Burr were:

- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's restaurants.

- Aruba's friendly people.
- "Aruba's airport is easy."

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. Nicholson & Mrs. Cobban were:

- "The Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort."
- Aruba's friendly people.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's safety.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Free Glass of Wine
with this coupon!!

The Grand Fish
The Best Fresh Seafood on The Island

Open from 11am till 10pm Closed on Tuesday
Tel. +297-280.1515 | Taratata Road 15 unit #1

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with



only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much

trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José

Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu,

but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual

ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

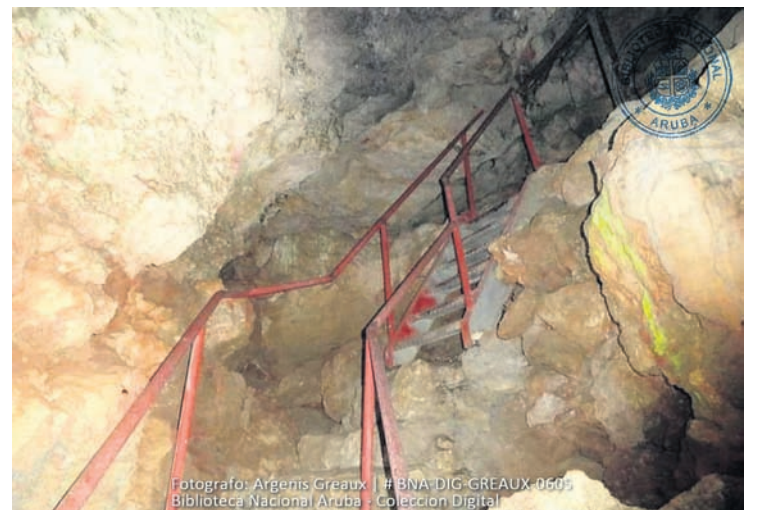
However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

Note to visitors:

Due to heavy rainfall in the past few days, Arikok National Park has informed that they have closed the Quadirikiri Cave until further notice for the safety of visitors.

Fontein remains open from 9am to 4pm.



CROSSWORD

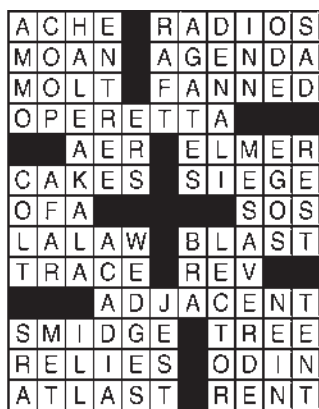
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

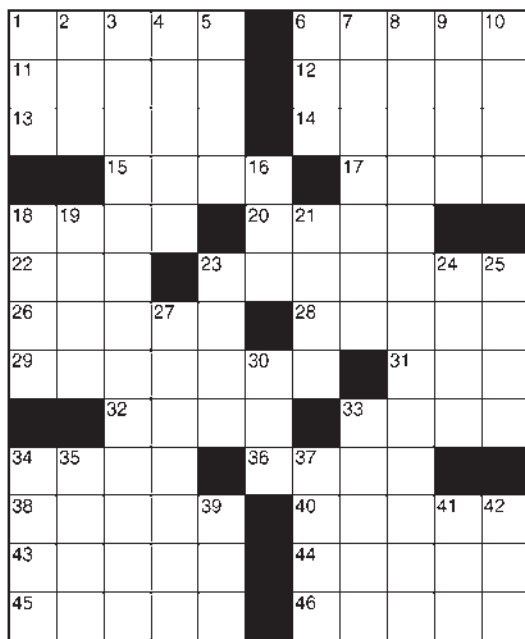
- 45 Prom crowd
1 Influence
6 Social blunder
11 Directional sign
12 Benefit
13 Measure
14 Buffalo team
15 Comfort
17 On the ocean
18 Track figures
20 Locale
22 Garden visitor
23 Squid's cousin
26 Like bar beer
28 Hag
29 Mascara holder
31 Haul into court
32 City of Colombia
33 Loses light
34 Tender touches
36 Novel need
38 Similar
40 Oneness
43 Exploding stars
44 Studio work

DOWN

- 1 Comic bit
2 Historic time
3 HBO crime anthology
4 Forum garments
5 Has debts
6 Yak it up
7 Ace, e.g.
8 Result of a faulty test
9 Dossier
10 "Frozen" queen
16 PC key
18 Bassoon's kin
19 Turn down
21 Longing
23 Milky gem
24 Coin word
25 Beholds
27 Nome
30 Tentative taste
33 Campaign supporter
34 Gasp for air
35 Lotion additive
37 Oatmeal feature
39 Twisty shape
41 Bind
42 Longing



Yesterday's answer



12-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

NSGP XTS UZZMO XTSC PZF'X

AGFX CZQ XZ. XTGX'O

ATSNS XTS IZZP OXQLL HO.

— ESYGN UQNXZF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A LITTLE MORE FUN, A LITTLE MORE LOVE, A LITTLE MORE LIGHT EVERY NIGHT. THAT'S THE JOY OF HANUKKAH.
— UNKNOWN

McDonald's testing new CosMc's chain amid unprecedented global expansion

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

McDonald's is testing a new restaurant format with customizable drinks and treats designed to appeal to afternoon snackers and grab sales from competitors like Starbucks and Dunkin'.

The company said Wednesday it will open 10 CosMc's restaurants through the first half of next year. One will be near the company's headquarters in Chicago and the rest will be in Texas. The company will study the results for at least a year before determining whether to expand. The announcement was one of the most anticipated at McDonald's day-long investor conference Wednesday. The company also said it expects to open nearly 10,000 McDonald's restaurants worldwide over the next four years to reach a total of 50,000 restaurants a pace of growth that would be unprecedented



A McDonald's golden arches is shown at restaurant in Havertown, Pa., Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Associated Press

even for the world's largest burger chain.

It plans to open 900 new stores in the U.S. and 1,900 in international markets with company operated and franchised restaurants like Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and Australia. McDonald's plans another 7,000 stores in international markets that are operated by licensees.

More than half of those stores would be in China. But beyond that physical expansion, McDonald's is also looking to CosMc's to expand its menu and service times and keep up with other fast-growing chains like Starbucks. Starbucks said last month it plans to open 55,000 stores globally by 2030, up from 38,000 today. □

New U.S.-Mexico agreement to monitor foreign investments comes as more Chinese money flows into Mexico

By MARIA VERZA and FATIMA HUSSEIN

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — As more Chinese money flows into Mexico, the United States and Mexico on Thursday agreed to monitor foreign investments and regularly share information about the screening.

The U.S. and Mexico "benefit when they work together to guard against foreign investments that pose national security risks," U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in a statement. The U.S. wants to prevent Chinese purchases of sensitive American technology that could be accessed through other U.S. trading partners. The U.S.-Mexico agreement may help achieve that goal. □



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen delivers opening remarks during a finance ministers meeting, as part of the APEC Summit, Monday, Nov. 13, 2023, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Honey Dolls
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE

Beautiful Latin Girls
Pick-up & Delivery

Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders

+297 565-9535

WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM

24/7

Wikipedia, wrapped. Here are 2023's most-viewed articles on the internet's encyclopedia

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

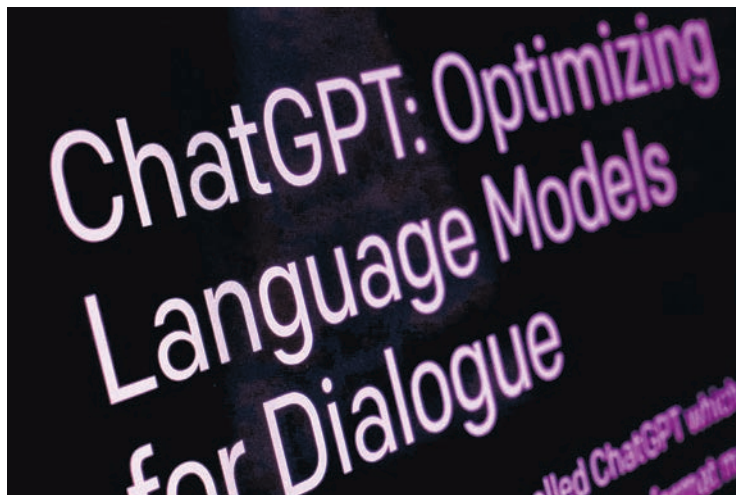
NEW YORK (AP) — Remember what you searched for in 2023? Well, Wikipedia has the receipts.

English Wikipedia raked in more than 84 billion views this year, according to numbers released Tuesday by the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit behind the free, publicly edited online encyclopedia. And the most popular article was about ChatGPT (yes, the AI chatbot that's seemingly everywhere today). Since its launch just over a year ago, OpenAI's ChatGPT has skyrocketed into the public's consciousness as the technology makes its way into schools, health care, law and even religious sermons. The chatbot has also contributed to growing debates about the promise and potential dangers of generative AI, much of which is documented on its Wikipedia page.

The second most-read article on Wikipedia in 2023 was the annual list of deaths, which sees high traffic year after year taking the #4 and #1 spots in 2022 and 2021, respectively. Individual entries for notable figures who passed away also garnered significant interest this year, including pages for Matthew Perry and Lisa Marie Presley.

Meanwhile, the highly anticipated 2023 Cricket World Cup took third place alongside three other cricket-related entries in Wikipedia's top 25 articles this year, including the Indian Premier League at #4, marking the first time cricket content has made the list since the Wikimedia Foundation started tracking in 2015.

"Barbenheimer," Taylor Swift and more also appeared to sway our 2023 internet-reading habits. Here are this year's top 25 articles on English Wikipedia.



Text from the ChatGPT page of the OpenAI website is shown in this photo, in New York, Feb. 2, 2023.

Associated Press

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. ChatGPT: 49,490,406 pageviews | 12. Taylor Swift, 19,418,385: pageviews |
| 2. Deaths in 2023: 42,666,860 pageviews | 13. Barbie (film): 18,051,077 pageviews |
| 3. 2023 Cricket World Cup: 38,171,653 pageviews | 14. Cristiano Ronaldo: 17,492,537 pageviews |
| 4. Indian Premier League: 32,012,810 pageviews | 15. Lionel Messi: 16,623,630 pageviews |
| 5. Oppenheimer (film): 28,348,248 pageviews | 16. Premier League: 16,604,669 pageviews |
| 6. Cricket World Cup: 25,961,417 pageviews | 17. Matthew Perry: 16,454,666 pageviews |
| 7. J. Robert Oppenheimer: 25,672,469 pageviews | 18. United States: 16,240,461 pageviews |
| 8. Jawan (film): 21,791,126 pageviews | 19. Elon Musk: 14,370,395 pageviews |
| 9. 2023 Indian Premier League: 20,694,974 pageviews | 20. Avatar: The Way of Water: 14,303,116 pageviews |
| 10. Pathan (film): 19,932,509 pageviews | 21. India: 13,850,178 pageviews |
| 11. The Last of Us (TV series): 19,791,789 pageviews | 22. Lisa Marie Presley: 13,764,007 pageviews |
| | 23. Guardians of the Gal- |

axy Vol. 3: 13,392,917 pageviews

24. Russian invasion of Ukraine: 12,798,866 pageviews

25. Andrew Tate: 12,728,616 pageviews

According to the Wikimedia Foundation, this top 25 list was created using English Wikipedia data as of Nov. 28. Numbers for the full year are set to be updated by the nonprofit on Jan. 3, 2024.

The top countries that accessed English Wikipedia overall to date in 2023 are the United States (33.2 billion) and the United Kingdom (9 billion) followed by India (8.48 billion), Canada (3.95 billion) and Australia (2.56 billion), according to Wikimedia Foundation data shared with The Associated Press. □



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Oduber: Tel. 582 1780
San Lucas: Tel. 584 5119

Women in Difficulties

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday

Like us on
Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/

What to know about the Hall & Oates legal fight, and the business at stake behind all that music

By JONATHAN MATTISE

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

After more than a half-century of making music together, Daryl Hall is suing John Oates and arguing in arbitration that he can't sell his share of a Hall & Oates business partnership without Hall's permission.

Public court filings have revealed just how wide the rift has grown between the duo famous for hits in the 1970s and '80s, including "Maneater," "Rich Girl" "Kiss on My List" and "I Can't Go for That (No Can Do)."

Hall has accused Oates of blindsiding and betraying him, saying their relationship and his trust in Oates have deteriorated. Oates has said he is "deeply hurt" that Hall is making "inflammatory, outlandish, and inaccurate statements" about him.

A Nashville judge recently paused the sale of Oates' stake in Whole Oats Enterprises LLP to Primary Wave IP Investment Management LLC until an arbitrator weighs in, or until Feb. 17.

Here are some recent developments.

WHY ARE HALL & OATES GOING TO COURT?

The dispute went public on Nov. 16, when Hall filed a lawsuit in a Nashville chancery court asking a judge to stop the sale by Oates so a separate, private arbitration could begin. Hall's lawsuit contends that going to court was the only way to ensure the sale by Oates and others involved in his trust didn't close before an arbitrator could weigh in. Hall filed for arbitration on Nov. 9.

Still, the pair's private business holdings and their agreements are largely blocked from public view, even after a judge unsealed many filings. Oates' attorneys have argued that he lived up to his contractual obligations and didn't go behind Hall's back. They have said the case should have remained only in arbitration, while accusing Hall



Hall of Fame inductees John Oates, left, and Daryl Hall appear in the press room at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on April, 10, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

of publicizing issues from what had been a private disagreement.

A judge put the sale on hold the day the lawsuit was filed, then extended that pause last week.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED SALE TIMELINE?

A court declaration by Hall shows what kind of valuable Hall & Oates materials Whole Oats Enterprises contains, though it does not describe the value, ownership percentage breakdown or sale price for those materials. The declaration cites materials such as trademarks, personal name and likeness rights, record royalty income and website and social media assets.

The musicians had been considering how to undergo a "global divorce" in late 2022, when Hall said he was entertaining Oates' push to dissolve their touring entity and a separate partnership related to their musical compositions and publishing, Hall's declaration says. Hall, meanwhile, proposed dissolving Whole Oats Enterprises.

Their disputes about Whole Oats Enterprises worsened and hit an impasse, lead-

ing them to enter mediation in July, Hall's arbitration filing states.

The filing accuses Oates of quietly negotiating a deal with Primary Wave, while letting Hall continue with normal mediation tasks, costing him time and legal fees. Oates' team entered into a non-disclosure agreement on Oct. 2 without Hall's knowledge that provided Primary Wave confidential information from the partnership. Blind to the Primary Wave negotiations, Hall and his representatives attended an hourslong mediation the next day. On Oct. 19, Hall's attorneys provided Oates' team with proposed settlement documents, though Oates' team still has not commented on them, the arbitration document says. The next day, Oates sent Hall the transfer notice and letter of intent describing the sale to Primary Wave, according to Hall's filing.

WHAT WAS DARYL HALL'S REACTION?

The court fight was initially shrouded by corporate legalese and filings unavailable to the public's view. Hall then peeled away the veneer in a point-by-point

declaration detailing why he is "deeply troubled by the deterioration of my relationship with, and trust in, John Oates."

Hall's account was filed in early November during arbitration and made public later in the month in the lawsuit. It alleges that Oates and his team engaged in the "ultimate partnership betrayal" by pushing to sell his share while telling Hall's associates that he wanted to maintain his ownership. Hall alleged that Oates in recent years has become "adversarial and aggressive instead of professional and courteous" toward him. Hall accused Oates of making business demands via a "revolving cast of lawyers." Hall said he was two days from leaving for a tour across the West Coast, Japan and the Philippines, when Oates first provided notice of the impending sale on Oct. 20.

Hall said he would have never approved a sale to Primary Wave, and takes issue with its business model. Hall expressed concern about how his name and likeness and other assets could be used.

Additionally, he said Oates'

team has not provided him with the confidential information disclosed to Primary Wave, which has already owned "significant interest" in Hall & Oates' song catalog for more than 15 years. The New York-based company has struck deals in recent years to buy stakes in the music catalogs of artists like Bing Crosby, Bob Marley, Stevie Nicks, Whitney Houston and Prince.

Deena Merlen, a Connecticut-based partner at Reavis Page Jump LLP with entertainment law expertise, noted that Primary Wave has struck more than \$2 billion in investment deals in about two years, as it buys music rights.

"Primary Wave has been a kid in a candy shop, with a pocket full of cash," said Merlen, who is not involved in the Hall & Oates case.

"Not a great stretch to see the temptation for Oates, under the circumstances."

WHAT WAS JOHN OATES' REPLY?

In his own declaration, Oates expressed disappointment with his longtime partner's words, saying Hall's accusations of that Oates went behind his back and breached their agreement aren't true. Oates declined to go into specifics, saying he's obligated to keep details private, even if Hall didn't.

Oates argued he had been trying for some time to enhance their business partnership, but Hall has become unwilling to work with him to protect what they created. He also said Hall has been trying for years to be seen as an individual.

According to Hall's arbitration filing, Oates' attorneys have argued the sale is allowed under a section of their business agreement that appears to give one partner a chance to buy the other's share when faced with an outside sale. Merlen cautioned that without seeing the full agreement which is under court seal she can't be certain how the provision works. □

Connor Bedard is living up to the hype, but the Blackhawks remain one of the NHL's worst teams

By JAY COHEN

AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Asked how he processes losing, Connor Bedard recalled one of his seasons with the Regina Pats his junior hockey team in Canada.

He didn't have to look back very far. After all, the rookie center just turned 18 in July. "I remember my 16-year in Reg, we didn't make playoffs and had a slow patch, kind of similar to what we've had right now just at the start of the year," he said. "It was pretty slow, we had a losing streak and stuff. It sucks, you never want to lose games."

"We know we're a better team than what our record shows. We just got to keep coming to the rink every day and being positive and trying to get better, and hopefully that shows in the win column."

While Bedard has lived up to the considerable hype he brought with him to Chicago, he can only do so much. The Blackhawks still look like a team at the beginning of a rebuilding project, albeit with a budding offensive star and a handful of promising defensemen.



Chicago Blackhawks center Connor Bedard reacts after missing a shot during overtime in an NHL hockey game against the Nashville Predators Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Chicago has dropped four straight and 10 of 12 overall after Tuesday night's 4-3 shootout loss to Nashville. It is off to a 7-16-1 start after it was 7-13-4 through its first 24 games last season.

"Every guy in here wants to do well," forward Nick Foligno said. "I think that's the hard part, is we're not getting results."

The biggest problem for Chicago is its lack of scor-

ing punch, even with Bedard in the fold. Heading into Wednesday's NHL slate, the Blackhawks ranked 30th in the league with 59 goals, and its power play was 29th at 10.7%. They have scored six times during their current slide.

The Blackhawks tried to address their lines in the off-season, bringing in veteran forwards Taylor Hall, Corey Perry and Foligno. But Hall

is out with a season-ending knee injury and Perry was cut for violating team conduct policies.

Andreas Athanasiou, who had 20 goals and 20 assists for Chicago last season, is on injured reserve with a groin injury. Lukas Reichel, a first-round pick in the 2020 draft, is off to a disappointing start with two goals and four assists in 23 games.

"We've started out some

games, we've had some good O-zone and sometimes a little bit too much on the outside," coach Luke Richardson said. "We want to make sure we're not just tossing pucks into the inside when we're not ready for it. I think we have to be a little more determined to get pucks to the net, and I think that starts at the back end shooting pucks more and a little quicker."

Of course, all is not lost for Chicago. Not with Bedard looking every bit the player the Blackhawks thought he would be when they took him with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

Bedard leads all NHL rookies with a team-high 11 goals and 20 points. From his awareness, vision and playmaking ability to his unflappable demeanor in the face of enormous attention off the ice, he appears to be well on his way to becoming one of the league's biggest stars.

He has displays of frustration, like when he broke his stick and punched the back of the boards during a 5-1 loss at Detroit last week, but he seems to be able to move on quickly. □

Lawsuit accuses NCAA of antitrust violation in college athlete transfer rule



This is a March 12, 2020, file photo showing NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis.
Associated Press

By JOHN RABY

AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) —

A federal lawsuit filed by a group of states alleges the NCAA's transfer rule for college athletes violates antitrust law. The lawsuit, filed in West Virginia's northern district, challenges the NCAA's authority to impose a one-year delay in the eligibility of certain athletes who transfer between schools. The suit said the rule "unjustifiably restrains the ability of these college athletes to engage in the market for their labor as NCAA Division I college athletes." The lawsuit filed

by West Virginia and six other states alleges violations of the Sherman Act. NCAA rules allow underclassmen to transfer once without having to sit out a year. But an additional transfer as an undergraduate requires the NCAA to grant a waiver allowing the athlete to compete immediately. Without that waiver, the athlete would generally have to sit out for a year at the new school. But the NCAA this year has implemented stricter guidelines for granting those waivers for second-time transfers, reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

NCAA spokeswoman Michelle Hosick didn't immediately return a message seeking comment Thursday afternoon.

The NCAA's transfer rule "artificially deters players and teams from achieving optimal matches by forcing college athletes to weigh the one-year ineligibility period against the benefits of moving to a better matched school. It is ironic that this rule, stylized as promoting the welfare of college athletes, strips them of the agency and opportunity to optimize their own welfare as they see fit," the lawsuit said. □

Juan Soto traded to New York Yankees from San Diego Padres in 7-player blockbuster

By **RONALD BLUM** and **BERNIE WILSON**
AP Sports Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Juan Soto is headed to the New York Yankees in their first big move following the team's worst season in three decades.

They hope at least one more will follow.

New York acquired Soto and Gold Glove center fielder Trent Grisham in a blockbuster trade with the cost-cutting Padres on Wednesday night. San Diego received right-handed pitchers Michael King, Jhony Brito, Randy Vásquez and Drew Thorpe along with catcher Kyle Higashioka.

It was the second monster deal involving the 25-year-old Soto in less than two years. The three-time All-Star slugger has one season of team control left and is likely to get a salary around \$32 million after batting .275 with 35 homers, 109 RBIs and a .930 OPS in his only full season with the Padres.

San Diego obtained Soto from Washington on Aug. 2, 2022, after he turned down a \$440 million, 15-year offer from the Nationals.

Padres general manager A.J. Preller said his team needed pitching and the swap gives San Diego young arms who will be with the franchise for several years.

"It's very difficult to make a deal where we're trading a player the caliber of Juan Soto, but if we did that we wanted to make sure we shored up a bunch of needs.

We were able to get some depth, with quality," Preller said at a late-night news conference in Nashville, Tennessee, where baseball's winter meetings were wrapping up.

New York went 82-80 last season, narrowly avoiding its first losing record since 1992, and finished 29th among the 30 major league teams in batting average.



San Diego Padres' Juan Soto bats during the third inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros, Sunday, Sept. 10, 2023, in Houston.

Soto joins a Yankees outfield that projects to have fellow All-Star Aaron Judge in center and newly acquired Alex Verdugo in the other corner. Soto has a 1.274 OPS in nine career games in the Bronx.

"Soto and Judge are Gotham's new dynamic duo," agent Scott Boras said.

Yankees executives will travel to California to meet Monday with free agent Yoshinobu Yamamoto, a person familiar with the planning told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because details were not announced.

The 25-year-old right-hander was 16-6 with a 1.21 ERA this season for the Orix Buffaloes of Japan's Pacific League.

Soto, like Verdugo, adds a left-handed bat to a lineup that was righty heavy for several seasons. Yankees lefties had 55 homers and 171 RBIs last year while righties had 164 homers and 479 RBIs, an imbalance for a team that usually takes advantage of Yankee Stadium's short porch in right.

"They were aggressive," Preller said. "They had a need and Juan is an incredible player and fit the need really well. When you have two teams that line up, and you have a team that's calling you consistently, you usually get a feel that this is something that has a chance to happen and hopefully it's a deal that works out for both sides."

San Diego appears to be slashing payroll by as much as \$50 million after flopping last season and missing the playoffs despite World Series aspirations. The Padres also have a need for starting pitching after NL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell, Michael Wacha and Seth Lugo became free agents.

Soto's relatively young age at free agency will be comparable to that of fellow Boras client Bryce Harper, who was 26 when he signed a \$330 million, 13-year contract with Philadelphia ahead of the 2019 season. In six major league seasons, Soto has a .284 batting average with 160

homers, 483 RBIs and a .946 OPS. He won a World Series title with the Nationals in 2019.

San Diego sent a bevy of promising prospects to Washington including shortstop CJ Abrams and starting pitcher MacKenzie Gore for Soto and first baseman Josh Bell. The Padres said the deal was worth it because they'd have Soto for three playoff runs. He helped the team reach the NL Championship Series in 2022, but the Padres underwhelmed last season despite also having stars Manny Machado, Fernando Tatis Jr. and Xander Bogaerts in the lineup.

While the Padres may have attempted to sign Soto to a long-term contract, Boras generally prefers to have his star clients hit the free-agent market.

"It's great when you're able to sign players long term, but there's cost of doing that as well," Preller said.

"For us, the ability to add players that are controllable, that we think are going to perform well, be with

us for multiple years, I think from a big-picture perspective it was a move that just opened up a lot of different avenues for us."

King, a 28-year-old right-hander, averages 94-96 mph with his sinking fastball and had a 2.75 ERA last season while going 4-8 in nine starts and 40 relief appearances.

He struck out 127 and walked 32 in 104 2/3 innings, excelling after moving from the bullpen into the rotation on Aug. 24.

King can become a free agent after the 2025 season.

Brito, who turns 26 in February, made his major league debut with the Yankees last season and went 9-7 with a 4.28 ERA and one save in 13 starts and 12 relief appearances. He struck out 72 and walked 28 in 90 1/3 innings. Vásquez, 25, also made his big league debut this year and finished 2-2 with a 2.87 ERA in five starts and six relief outings.

Higashioka, who turns 34 in April, has spent his entire seven-year major league career with New York and batted .236 with 10 homers, 34 RBIs and a .687 OPS last season. He was a favorite batterymate of Yankees ace and 2023 AL Cy Young Award winner Gerrit Cole going back to their teenage years as teammates. Higashioka also can be a free agent next fall.

The 23-year-old Thorpe, selected in the second round of the 2022 amateur draft, was 14-2 with a 2.52 ERA at Class A Hudson Valley and Double-A Somerset last season.

He struck out 182 and walked 38 in 139 1/3 innings.

Grisham, a two-time Gold Glove winner, batted .198 with 13 homers, 50 RBIs, 15 steals and a .666 OPS this year.

He is eligible for salary arbitration and gives the Yankees a true center fielder likely to play a part-time role off the bench. □

Associated Press